

MICHAEL M. BALCH
COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Gulf Region Division

Command Sergeant Major Michael Balch serves as the first Command Sergeant Major of the Gulf Region Division in Baghdad, Iraq. He deployed on March 3rd, 2004 with two weeks notice in support of the division's critical reconstruction mission. He assumed duties as the eighth Command Sergeant Major of the United States Army Corps of Engineers on 22 November 2002. He was born October 2, 1956 in Syracuse, New York and enlisted in the United States Army in October 1975. CSM Balch attended Basic Training and Combat Engineer Advanced Individual Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

CSM Balch recently served as the Engineer Brigade CSM of the 1st Infantry Division in Bamberg, Germany for three years, which included portions of the brigade deploying to Kosovo in 1999 and 2002. He served as the CSM of the 91st Engineer Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division at Ft Hood, Texas and in Bosnia for seven months in 1999. He has held a variety of leadership, instructor, and staff positions throughout his career to include, First Sergeant of A co, 65th Engr Bn, 25th Inf Div (L), Schofield Barracks, Hawaii from Nov 1991 to Oct 1993. Other duty positions have included PERSCOM CMF 12 Career Advisor, Platoon Sergeant, Squad Leader, Senior Drill Sergeant, Drill Sergeant of the Year, BNCOC Instructor, PLDC Instructor, Team Leader, Operations Sergeant, Demolitions Specialist, and Carpenter.

CSM Balch's assignment history encompasses: three tours at Ft Hood including a tour in the combat heavy engineer battalion of the 13th COSCOM and two tours in the 1st Cavalry Division; two tours in Korea with the 2nd Infantry Division; a tour at the U.S. Army Training Center Engineer at Ft Leonard Wood, Missouri; a tour in the 25th Infantry Division (Light), Schofield Barracks, Hawaii; duty with the U.S. Army Total Personnel Command in Virginia; and a tour with the 1st Infantry Division in Germany.

CSM Balch's military education includes the Primary Noncommissioned Officers Course, Commandant's List; Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course; Honor Graduate; Advanced Noncommissioned Officers Course; Commandant's List; U.S. Army First Sergeant Course, Leadership Award selectee; and U.S Sergeants Major Academy, Class 47 graduate. He is also a graduate of the Drill Sergeant School, Sapper Leader Course, Airborne Course, and Air Assault Course. CSM Balch has also pursued his civilian education earning an Associates Degree from Central Texas College.

His awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal (fifth award), Army Commendation Medal (fourth Award), Army Achievement Medal (second award), Good Conduct Medal (ninth award), National Defense Service Medal with Bronze star device, the Expeditionary Medal, NATO Medal, Drill Sergeant Identification Badge, Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, and the German Army Gold Schutzenschnur Badge. He is also a recipient of the Army Engineer Association's prestigious Silver DeFleury Medal.

He is married with four children.